

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 3, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this amended, claims 3, 7 and 10 are canceled; claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11 and 13-15 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9 and 11-15 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 3-6 and 10-12. Claim 1 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 3 and claim 8 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Claims 6 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7, 8 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Furuta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,929 B1, "Furuta"). As claim 7 has been canceled, the rejection with respect to this claim is now rendered moot. As discussed above, claim 8 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 10. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Furuta. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 8. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 13-15.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuta in view of Dais et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,741 B1, "Dais"). As discussed above, claim

1 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 3. As such the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of Furuta and Dais. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2, 9 and 13/9 to 15/9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuta in view of Dais as applied to claims 1 and 8, and further in view of Onuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,798,337 B2, "Onuma"). Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and claims 9 and 13/9 to 15/9 depend from claim 8. As discussed above, claims 1 and 8 have been amended with the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 10, respectively. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 8 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of Furuta, Dais and Onuma. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 9 and 13/9 to 15/9 based at least upon their dependency from allowable claims 1 and 8.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 6, 8 and 11 are allowable. Claim 2, 4 and 5 depend from claim 1, claims 9 and 13-15 depend from claim 8 and claim 12 depends from claim 11. The Applicants further submit that each of these claims incorporate the patentable aspects thereof, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9 and 11-15 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 108113-00001.**

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda L. Barton
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,271

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX LLP

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

RLB/wbp

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)